



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

MARCH/APRIL 1997

THE NEW YOUTHQUAKE

The European designers are playing to a younger, more fashion conscious woman this season. With the infusion of new design talent and a youthful approach by some of the more established houses in their diffusion lines, the mood is upbeat, fresh and exciting.

CONTRAIRE, Louis Feraud's new diffusion line marries European chic with American practicality and understatement. The groups revolve

around lifestyle dressing with softly tailored clothes, in fabrications such as wool/Lycra tricotine, merino wool knits, even microfiber ottoman for stylish outerwear pieces. Throughout there's a mix of textures and patterns, sharp against soft, sporty against feminine— all in a color palette that ranges from warm honey, amber and mahogany to moss, pine, cassis, ink and pearl. The zip-front belted jumpsuit in stretch gabardine is a sleek

continued on page 2

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Much of the excitement in the Fall collections centers on the diffusion or secondary lines. These lower priced collections are attempting to address the needs of the working woman without sacrificing style or quality.

The idea behind the KAREN KANE COLLECTION is simple. It's about beautiful tailoring in luxurious fabrics, and flexible day-into-evening dressing. The collection is divided into five groups: Modern Herringbone,

Bronze Mix, French Twist, Black Pearl, Uptown Girl and Classic Bordeaux. Tropical wool blends, pure wool cavalry twill and glen plaids are fashioned into stylish career separates. For example, a bronze twill, notch collared jacket and trousers are perfect with an iridescent bronze/green silk vest and beige stretch silk charmeuse blouse. Another standout is a sleek rayon/Lycra jersey bodysuit worn under a relaxed short jacket in vicuna colored mohair. At BARRY BRICKEN SPORT, the

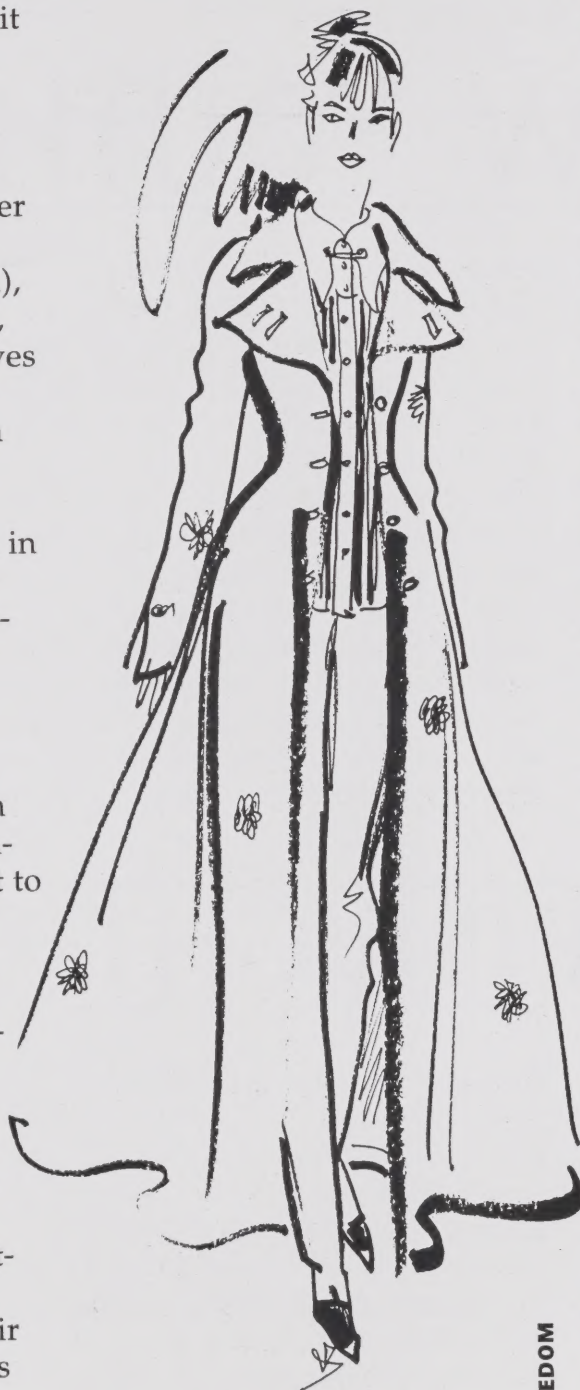
continued on page 4



CERRUTI 1881

choice for day-into-dinner dressing. At LOUIS FERAUD, designer Alistair Blair is shaking things up. The Fall look is feminine, romantic, luxurious, yet with a modern edge. Standouts include his beautiful novelties, such as a faux knit effect skirt suit in camel or chocolate; a classic dinner suit in black wool crepe; flirty cocktail dresses in Chantilly lace and silk crepe; and a gorgeous, shaped, gold brocade dinner jacket shown over slim black velvet pants. CERRUTI 1881 (Signum Int'l), has made headlines recently, and their Fall collection proves that the attention is well deserved. Each group is driven by very special items and throughout the focus is on young luxurious sportswear in natural fabrics. There's an outstanding vicuna window-pane belted top, shown over black/vicuna novelty check wool trousers; a chic gray/ivory chalk striped pantsuit; and the ultimate in offhand chic — a tweedy unlined double-breasted jacket to pair with techno stretch or brown velvet jeans. A long sweeping coat in bone shearling works with everything.

CULTURA balances classic cuts with an urban edge. A warm, earth toned palette, retro prints, texture and pattern mixes, plus high tech fabrics are key for Fall. Their essential piece, the top, is either double-breasted, elongated, belted or takes three buttons. All are worn over knee grazing skirts and fitted shirts. A long lean silhouette is in evidence in the hip belted



WORKERS FOR FREEDOM

tunic and pants outfit or the slim, wrap and tie belted coat. At WORKERS FOR FREEDOM (The Showroom), the design team of Richard Knott and Graham Fraser are back, after a two year hiatus, with a sharp, focused collection that relies heavily on novelty looks and unusual fabrications. There's a dramatic long riding coat in black wool gabardine embroidered with a random floral motif in stone. It's shown atop narrow gabardine pants and a silk knit shirt, collared and cuffed in poplin. The long hacking jacket in brown/honey check works with brown leather pants or stretch cotton pants in stone. Definitely a showstopper is the long red coat, shown over a wrap top and long asymmetric skirt. Worn open, the coat reveals the surprise of a gold quilted lining. BARBARA BUI (The Showroom) believes in beautiful fabrics combined with subtle detailing. Outstanding is her slim, double-faced cashmere coat with narrow leather piping, the fur collared double knits and her butter soft leathers. At INDIVI BY ATSURO TAMAYA (The Showroom) the look is updated young contemporary with just a touch of attitude. Standouts include the bi-colored rib sweaters, the double-breasted trench in brown UltraSuede, stretch corduroy jeans and the tweedy jackets and pants. MATHILDE's (Al Quinn) forte is youthful ladylike ensemble dressing. Gentle shapes are married to a muted color palette of burgundy, brown, olive, etc. Particularly attractive is a structured coat and dress ensemble in aubergine wool.

MAKING A SPECTACLE OF YOURSELF

From high tech to retro, this season's eyewear offers comfort, and a variety of good looks. Several trends emerge for Fall '97, at the Vision Expo as well as in the showrooms, the lenses are bigger and the frames are extreme — minimalist, almost to spare, or embellished and luxe. Bright colors and unusual textured color-on-color combinations appear in metal and plastic eyewear.

Metal frames account for 75% of sales, with cobalt, stainless steel and titanium in the forefront. Once simply in silver or gold, all three favorites take on a wide range of shades, graduations, and finishes to combine with their own qualities: Cobalt is durable as well as hypoallergenic; stainless steel is tarnish resistant; and titanium is lightweight. With new methods, such as foiling that applies color flecks to metal by wrapping the frames with color coated foil wrap and baking it on, metal can now make the same fashion statement as plastic. Better tooling and decorative details add interest, and function is served with longer lasting features, such as spring hinge temples.

Especially fashion forward are the textured looks that mix with color in pearlized pastels and tortoise flecked neutrals for color-on-color combinations. At GUCCI, plastics come in great looking laminated metallic colors, in handmade acetate, that recall the '60s and '70s. Duotones go from top to bottom. Subtle and equally effective colored lenses, in shades of amber, blue, and yellow, combine

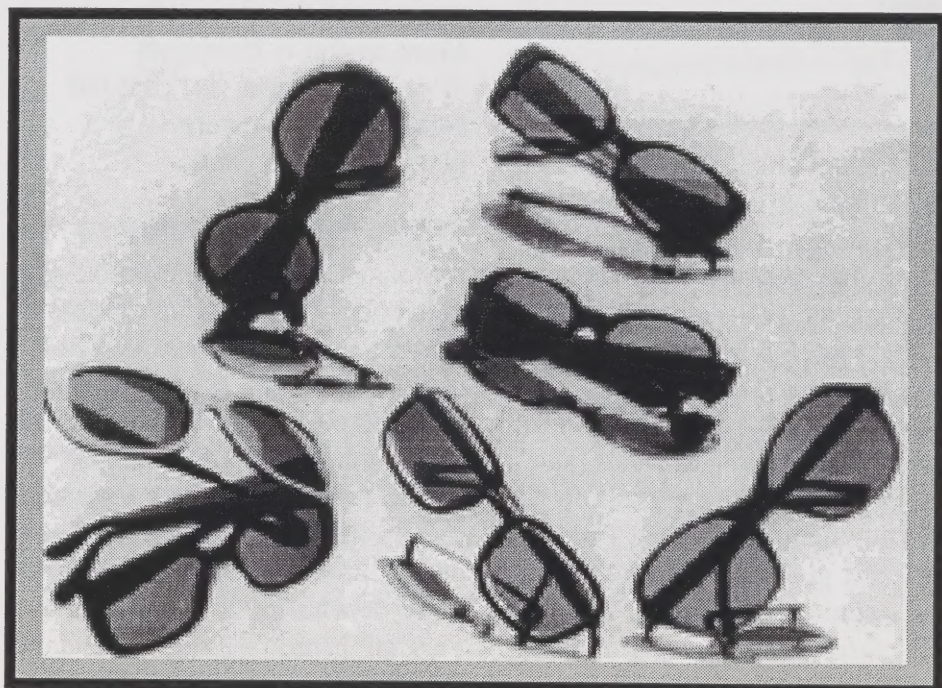
with metal frames in gold and silver. For classic chic, the makers of the genuine Swiss Army Knife, WENGER, pair a natural gray lens with bronze, gunmetal or antique green metal frames, in their "Regiment" and "Commander" styles. Although black continues to dominate in plastic frames, unusual and bright colors are creating a stir. MOSCHINO offers three outstanding shades—teal blue, raspberry red and sea green. From BYBLOS a black lens pairs with sizzling brights in lipstick red, electric blue, and polo green plastic frames. ANNE KLEIN uses hot color combinations of crystal with black, lime green with brown, and maroon with tortoise; while ANNE KLEIN II enhances the face with a striped iridescent frame that appears to change from a light purple to a metallic gold under the light.

The credo bigger is better applies to all shapes and styles for Fall. Whether the lenses are round,

oval, or rectangular, there is more eye coverage with metal aviators, wrap and cat-eye styles, and plastic frames are thicker and more attention getting. As a backlash to minimalism, this new "maximalism" is expected to continue for several seasons. Novel shapes come to the forefront as simple design turns to complex construction. At RAYBAN, oversized frames characterize the retro shapes in "Sidestreet Tankers," while tilted metallic ovals give "Deco Metals" their seductive shape.

Embellishments return as fashion looks to the '80s for direction. Known for elaborate belt and jewelry design, Barry Kieselstein-Cord introduces the KIESELSTEIN-CORD eyewear collection for Fall. Sculpted effects, unique tooling and signature features, such as alligator and celestial motifs, characterize these rich looking sunglasses.

continued on page 6



classics rule in a subtle palette of camel, pecan, loden, nutmeg, and cedar. Extremely attractive is the chenille/merino wool bird's-eye wrap cardigan, that comes in a rich shade of espresso/currant. Striking with a wool tweed turtle-neck in currant, and espresso suede pants! Also in suede is a stylish belted safari jacket and matching 18" mini skirt, in loden or amber. MISC BY JANET



KAREN KANE

HOWARD walks a fine line between cutting edge and classic. For Fall, there are related separates in charcoal and heathery brown stretch gabardine. These mix and match with components in English tweed or easy knits. There's a very attractive diamond weave pea coat, in a brown/black combination, pairing with stretch gabardine jeans in vicuna. For a wonderful play of textures there are Missoni inspired space dyed knit separates and a chic Empire

waist dress that works back to everything on the line.

At RUBIN-CHAPELLE, the look is polished with an emphasis on interesting fabrics and detailing. There are seasonless stretch wools, a semi-sheer metallic gauze called "Shimmer," Tuscany twill Italian microfiber, viscose knits, and leather. The look is always long, lean, attenuated. A wool full length camel coat, with notch collar, gets an espresso leather side-closure and angled seams. A 3/4 version with three-button closure comes with matching slim wool pants. The HALSTON LIFESTYLE COLLECTION, designed by Randolph Duke, evokes the spirit of Halston for today's busy career woman and fulfills her dressing needs from day to dinner. A single-breasted jacket in cavalry twill goes to the office over a tweed print shirt and black pants, as does a knit mock turtleneck over an argyle print, stretch woven skirt and faux leather jacket. For moving up the corporate ladder, there's a sleek charcoal pinstripe pantsuit with an Empire effect achieved by the use of horizontal striping on the elongated jacket. More casual is Halston's microfiber suede, back-belted jacket and skirt, worn with a geometric print shirt.

At MAGASCHONI there's a feeling of luxury and creativity, particularly apparent in the mix of fabrics. Standouts include a two-tone herringbone shirt jacket and inverted pleat, mid-calf skirt in a cinnamon/coffee bean viscose blend. For a touch of Chinoiserie there's an iridescent taffeta topper and skinny high waist pants in olive or whiskey. A beautiful Persian printed velvet, in the same whiskey shade, is fashioned into an elegant wrap belted kimono

jacket, shell top and cigarette pants. L. BATES believes strongly in seasonless fabrics such as Tencel, cotton/Lycra twill and gabardine, and a viscose blend brushed mini corduroy. Shapes range from a simple double-breasted short jacket, with shawl collar, to relaxed belted shirt jackets and minimalist tunics and pants. Sueded moleskin works well in their safari pocket shirt in camel, worn over a welt pocket



HALSTON LIFESTYLE

short skirt. Designer Shin Choi of COLERIDGE & CO. gives her customers an affordably priced version of Prada. For Fall, she's showing sportswear in coffee, grape, dark olive or black Techno stretch. A key piece is her fitted shirt jacket and coordinating slim boot-cut pant. For underplayed dinner dressing, there is a sleeveless, square neck tunic and slim bias 36" skirt — both in black stretch wool crepe. Rounding out the collection are pea coats and toppers in camel hair, and lamb's wool plaids that coordinate with everything.

DESIGNER FOCUS.

PREMISE

debuted for Fall '95 with Caroline Freeman, the Scottish designer. Freeman who pioneered Episode, the renowned British chain, and was the company's designer for ten years, also did some freelance designing for Cerruti. As a result, she shows a practiced and precise hand that is epitomized by sophisticated and tailored sportswear. Foremost is the versatility of the designs. These are designs that can be worn season after season and breeze easily from career to weekend.

For Fall I, Premise translates 100% wool twill into a notch collar jacket, a short double-breasted jacket, a voluminous elongated coat tunic that hits just below the knee, classic trousers, and a slim 23" skirt — all in solid chocolate, creme and caramel. Coordinating with these is a wool/nylon/Lycra double knit group with zip detail that includes a jacket, pant and jewel neck top, and an equally smart tweed and tonal check group in multicolored cocoa. A versatile reversible double-faced wool jacket is designed to top off any combination within the group. Also featured is five-pocket jeans in caramel suede with paisley or pebble print coordinating blouses. Vanilla and paprika are the colors used for a trio comprising tunic, blouse and camisole, each with chain stitch detailing. Georgette, matte jersey, and knits provide a fluid soft and textured grouping in citron, ivory, chocolate and cherry. A standout here is a 100% merino wool, double-breasted, belted cardigan jacket.

Fall II gets progressively dressier, with black or platinum Italian wool

crepe wrap jackets or a short, fly-front jacket that can be paired with a side-zip pant, trousers, bias skirt or a '40s evoking 32" slim skirt with slightly fluted back. The color scheme continues in double-knit with a hip skimming, shapely double-breasted jacket, dress and sweater quartet that works back with a coordinating trio of jacket, pant, and shell. Another group of separates and a jacket features black/platinum glen plaid with a



PREMISE

subtle shot of violet that is only obvious when up close; this violet is picked up in a tulip print blouse and a double-faced reversible black/violet jacket.

469 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10018
212-629-9260
Wholesale: \$69-\$275

b.r.y.n.

The letters that form the name of this updated missy sportswear house were inspired by the daughters of the company's design director, Barbara Alexander, and her business partner and husband Jim. While this smart, saleable and stylish collection made its debut just last year, Barbara Alexander is no newcomer to fashion. She was with Jones New York for a decade, and as designer merchandiser she launched and operated the Due Per Due line. "We know that the industry really didn't need just another sportswear line, so we targeted b.r.y.n. to the 25-65 year old customer as a sharp missy collection with a special twist," explains Barbara. "We use all Italian fabrics and pay particular attention to quality and fit. We know what the missy customer wants — special fabrications and a great fit on updated silhouettes."

For Fall '97, small and large checks are featured in black and camel combinations, juxtaposed with coordinating solids and a caramel melange, all in a wool/viscose blend. Jackets are tailored to perfection, with hidden details designed to delight the eye. This is exemplified by a smart hacking jacket in a mini-check, with half belt and patch pockets. There is a pleat at the upper back that opens to reveal a

continued on page 6

New to the U.S. market is hot young London designer EFFIE SAMARA (Al Quinn). Soft sportswear with a whimsical twist and subtle seam detailing sets this collection apart. The focus is on wool/cashmere knits and separates in wool crepe or satin gabardine, with an emphasis on layering tops, wrap jackets, tunics, easy jeans and a variety of short and long skirts. Another newcomer to the U.S. is UNADONNA (FSI Inc.). This is classic sportswear with an "English Gentry" cast, filtered through an Italian perspective. Setting the tone is a stylish belted safari jacket in brown wool glen plaid, shown over chocolate stretch wool pants. Luncheons call for pinstripe suitings or a chic black wool/viscose, long

sleeved sheath. CRIMSON BY ANNA PIANORA (FSI Inc.) offers elegant day to evening clothes with a twist. A standout from the modern, stylized print range includes a black and camel, single-breasted viscose blazer in their flat printed process that is truly unique and exclusive to Crimson. Each piece is different and becomes a wearable work of art. Also eye-catching is a group of devore velvets, especially a one-shouldered long column in pale beige. Stretch pleather, faux fur, and reversible nylon coats round out this comprehensive collection. At TEENFLO the focus is on understated simplicity, seen to advantage in a stretch black jersey jumpsuit and a one-button jacket in espresso brown wool tricotine. There's a

"DESIGNER FOCUS" continued from page 5

contrasting larger check inset. Alternative jacket silhouettes include a short zip-front version, and a notched front, half-belted version. These, together with a versatile check slicker in viscose and linen, team elegantly with tailored pants, slim long and short skirts, and a 19-21 inch "A" skirt with inverted pleat. Also included is a semi-fitted vest; a shapely, sleeveless color blocked shift dress; a coatdress-cum-jacket in large check with contrast mini-check collar and cuffs; a long flowing tunic "flap" dress; solid sandwashed silk shirt and Lycra tops. Black faux leather and ribbed pieces can be used to punctuate the groups as a sleeved tunic, vest or pant. Stretch ribbed and solid rayon/wool/nylon knits form another group of similar silhouettes, in charcoal, golden green, winter white, and rust. Here, a chic and versatile dress and coat

ensemble has the added plus of a coat that can be worn solo as a coatdress. Also included is an easy tailored, reefer jacket and another jacket that's adorned with a silver chain belt.

499 Seventh Avenue, 8-North
New York, NY 10018
212-268-7960
Wholesale: \$49-\$184

"SPECTACLE" continued from page 3

GIANFRANCO FERRE, using elegant jewel embellishments on metal and plastic frames, accentuates their unique coloration. Three-dimensional plastic striping appears on his rectangular, oval and modified cat-eye styles; while DIESEL provides details resembling metal studs, brass knuckles or die-cut circles on this season's unisex wrap style to complement their jeans and ready-to-wear.

variation on the ubiquitous pea coat in a brown cashmere blend that looks new worn with coordinating plaid "leggings." Equally strong are the coats, especially a strict fly-front, slim knee length style in light camel, or the three-button cashmere blend reefer in a pretty shade of pale lettuce. In WHISTLES extensive collection, the highlights include a stretch velvet, pinstriped riding jacket and boot leg pant, the long one-button velvet coat/pant ensemble in beautiful shades of hyacinth, berry, heather or rose hip, and graceful antique velvet slip dresses to dance the night away.

Publisher: Ruth Finley
(FASHION CALENDAR/
INTERNATIONAL)

Editor: Deborah Brumfield

Associate
Editor: Maria Carzis Boyes

Copy Editor: Elizabeth Garcia

Contributors: Bridget Biggane, NY
Debby de Montfort, NY
Lee Slaughter, NY/PARIS

Illustrations: Debby de Montfort

Graphics/
Printing: Bill White
Print & Graphics
Yonkers, New York

1 Year Subscription \$100
Outside USA \$110

153 East 87th Street, NY, NY 10128
TEL (212) 289-0420
FAX (212) 289-5917

VOL. XXIV, NO. 8
COPYRIGHT 1997
FASHION INTERNATIONAL